

## Concerning HB NO 5140 Regarding Horseshoe Crab Harvesting

I have been tagging Horseshoe Crabs in Old Saybrook as part of Project Limulus since 2009. Since that time I have noticed a remarkable decline in their numbers.

During 2019 my son fished commercially for whelk. Horseshoe crabs through the years have been the traditional bait for whelk traps.

Before beginning his season he decided to experiment a bit in our saltwater aquarium where he had several whelk. He tried various protein sources such as crushed green crab, clams, fish chunks, meat and chunks of HS crab, to see what whelk would prefer. He found that there was no significant advantage in using HS crabs-the whelk went for just about any protein source available.

For the entire 2019 season he was successful using various protein sources and never once utilized HS crabs as bait.

John Ogren

President-Old Saybrook Land Trust